

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 H-02 SAM-01 L-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

/046 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:JKBISHOP:JW/RJP

APPROVED BY AF:JJBLAKE

AF/W:RAMCGUIRE

EUR/IB:WKELLY

AFR/RA:RCHAMBERLAIN (INFO)

AF/P:JALINEHAM

PA/MS/PI:SHAUFE

H:WBRICHARDSON

H:WBRICHARDSON

----- 015517

R 221429Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119529

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PO, CV

SUBJECT: CAPE VERDE ELECTIONS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM AF

REFS: A. LISBON 2682 (NOTAL); B. LISBON 2357

1. JIM BISHOP FAILED TO REACH YOU WITH INTERIM REPORT
FOLLOWING UP ON MAY 9 CONVERSATION.

2. ON BASIS OF EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO US, WE DO NOT
BELIEVE DEMARCHE YOU PROPOSED WOULD BE JUSTIFIED OR
PRODUCTIVE. AS REPORTED REFTEL A, ANY GROUP OF 300

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CAPE VERDIAN VOTERS REGISTERED IN AN ELECTORAL DISTRICT
CAN PRESENT A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THAT DISTRICT'S

SEATS FOR 30 JUNE ELECTION. THEREFORE PAIGC ENJOYS NO RPT NO LEGAL MONOPOLY ON RIGHT TO CONTEST ELECTIONS. US OFFICIALS WHO HAVE RECENTLY VISITED ISLANDS (AF/W'S MCGUIRE IN FEBRUARY AND AID'S CHAMBERLAIN IN MAY) SAW NO SIGNS POLITICAL OPPRESSION WHICH WOULD SUPPORT CLAIM BY CAPE VERDIANS IN US THAT QUOTE THOUSANDS UNQUOTE IMPRISONED OR UNDER HOUSE ARREST. ONLY CONFIRMED RPT CONFIRMED ARRESTS WERE THOSE OF UDC AND UPICV MEMBERS IN DECEMBER FOR WHAT PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER DESCRIBED AS QUOTE DISRUPTING THE ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER FROM PORTUGAL TO AN INDEPENDENT CAPE VERDE UNQUOTE. ACCORDING TO OUR BEST ESTIMATE, APPROXIMATELY 60 CAPE VERDIANS HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED BY PORTUGUESE AND TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR POLITICALLY RELATED OFFENSES.

3. MAIL/CABLE CAMPAIGN BY CAPE VERDIANS IN US IS CHARACTERIZED BY HEAVILY CHARGED DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS IN ISLANDS, E.G. THAT QUOTE UNCONSTITUTIONAL UNQUOTE LISBON AGREEMENT HAS TURNED CAPE VERDE OVER TO QUOTE COMMUNIST UNQUOTE PAIGC WHICH PLANS TO INCORPORATE ISLANDS WITH GUINEA-BISSAU AND ALLOW RUSSIANS AND CUBANS TO USE ISLANDS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. DEPARTMENT REPLYING THAT ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 30 WILL SELECT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH WILL RECEIVE INDEPENDENCE FROM PORTUGAL AND CHART FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES FOR CAPE VERDE; THAT VISITING US OFFICIALS HAVE SEEN NO INDICATIONS OF POLITICAL OPPRESSION; AND THAT PAIGC AND TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE VISITED WASHINGTON HAVE EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE TIES WITH US. WE ALSO NOTE THAT UNITED NATIONS MISSION WHICH VISITED CAPE VERDE DURING PERIOD FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 2 REPORTED THAT QUOTE THE PEOPLE OF CAPE VERDE ARE DETERMINED TO ACCEDE TO INDEPENDENCE UNDER THE BANNER OF THE PAIGC, AND THE PAIGC IS THE SOLE AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF CAPE VERDE AND ENJOYS THEIR FULL SUPPORT. UNQUOTE.

4. AF WELCOMES YOUR SUGGESTION FOR CLOSER CONSULTATION
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WITH CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS AND WILL FOLLOW-UP. INGERSOLL

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